

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing an electronic message, comprising:

receiving a message from a sender, the message comprising at least one recipient to receive the message and including at least one of a restriction identifier, the restriction identifier identifying a subset of recipients from among a set of possible recipients and an
5 access restriction indicating a subset of points of access from among a set of points of access to access the message;

determining whether each identified at least one recipient is within the subset of recipients corresponding to the restriction identifier; and wherein at least one of the following steps is performed:

10 (i) when the message comprises the restriction identifier and an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, at least one of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients and notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients; and

15 (ii) when the message comprises the access restriction and an identified at least one recipient attempts to access the message from a point of access not within the subset of points of access, not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient whose point of access is not within the subset of points of access.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located a header of the message.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located in a body of the message.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located in a trailer of the message.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located in an attachment to the message.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message is received by a server associated with at least one recipient from a server associated with the sender.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one of a restriction identifier and access identifier is configured as a flag.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the step of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients is performed.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of

recipients, the step of notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients is performed.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises an age restriction, the age restriction specifying an age limit of the message.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the message comprises a timestamp indicating when a life of a message starts and further comprising:

comparing the expired life of the message with the age restriction to determine whether or not to delete and/or deliver the message to the at least one recipient.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises a forwarding restriction indicating at least one of (a) whether the message may be forwarded and (b) to whom the message may be forwarded.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the access restriction.

14. A computer readable medium operable to perform the steps of Claim 1.

15. A logic circuit operable to perform the steps of Claim 1.

16. A method for processing an electronic message, comprising:
receiving at least part of a message inputted by a user, the at least part of a message
comprising at least one recipient to receive the message;
receiving, from the user, a restriction identifier for the at least part of a message, the
restriction identifier identifying a subset of recipients from among a set of possible recipients
; and
when a restriction identifier is received, tagging the message with the restriction
identifier.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein, before the message is sent to the at least
one recipient, further comprising:
determining whether each identified at least one recipient is within the subset of
recipients corresponding to the restriction identifier; and
when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, at least
one of not sending the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset
of recipients and notifying the user that an identified at least one recipient is not within the
subset of recipients.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located a header
of the message.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a body of the message.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a trailer of the message.

21. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located in an attachment to the message.

22. The method of Claim 17, wherein the message is received by a server associated with at least one recipient from a server associated with the sender.

23. The method of Claim 17, wherein the restriction identifier is configured as a flag.

24. The method of Claim 17, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the step of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients is performed.

25. The method of Claim 17, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the step of notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients is performed.

26. The method of Claim 17, wherein the message comprises an age restriction, the age restriction specifying an age limit of the message.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the message comprises a timestamp indicating when a life of a message starts and further comprising:

comparing the expired life of the message with the age restriction to determine whether or not to delete and/or deliver the message to the at least one recipient.

28. The method of Claim 17, wherein the message comprises a forwarding restriction indicating at least one of (a) whether the message may be forwarded and (b) to whom the message may be forwarded.

29. The method of Claim 17, wherein the message comprises an access restriction indicating a subset of points of access from among a set of points of access to access the message, and further comprising:

5 when an identified at least one recipient attempts to access the message from a point of access not within the subset of points of access, not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient whose point of access is not within the subset of points of access.

30. A computer readable medium operable to perform the steps of Claim 16.

31. A logic circuit operable to perform the steps of Claim 16.

32. An electronic message, comprising:

at least one recipient, at least one of a voice and text message, and a restriction identifier, the restriction identifier identifying a subset of recipients from among a set of recipients to receive the message.

33. The electronic message of Claim 32, wherein rules defining the electronic message structure permit the at least one recipient to be different from the recipients in the subset of recipients.

34. The electronic message of Claim 33, wherein the at least one recipient is different from the subset of recipients.

35. The electronic message of Claim 32, wherein the electronic message comprises a header containing the at least one recipient, a body containing the at least one of a voice and text message, and a trailer and wherein the restriction identifier is in at least one of the header, body and trailer.

36. A server for processing an electronic message, comprising:

an input operable to receive at least part of a message inputted by a user, the at least part of a message comprising at least one recipient to receive the message, and a restriction identifier for the at least part of a message, the restriction identifier identifying a subset of recipients from among a set of possible recipients; and

when a restriction identifier is received, a processor operable to tag the message with the restriction identifier.

37. The system of Claim 36, wherein, before the message is sent to the at least one recipient, the processor is further operable to determine whether each identified at least one recipient is within the subset of recipients corresponding to the restriction identifier and, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, at least one of not send the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients and notify the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients.

38. The system of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located a header of the message.

39. The system of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a body of the message.

40. The system of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a trailer of the message.

41. The system of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located in an attachment to the message.

42. The system of Claim 36, wherein the message is received by a server associated with at least one recipient from a server associated with the sender.

43. The system of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is configured as a flag.

44. The system of Claim 36, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the function of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients is performed.

45. The system of Claim 36, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the function of notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients is performed.

46. The system of Claim 36, wherein the message comprises an age restriction, the age restriction specifying an age limit of the message.

47. The system of Claim 46, wherein the message comprises a timestamp indicating when a life of a message starts and the processor is further operable to compare the expired life of the message with the age restriction to determine whether or not to delete and/or deliver the message to the at least one recipient.

48. The system of Claim 36, wherein the message comprises a forwarding restriction indicating at least one of (a) whether the message may be forwarded and (b) to whom the message may be forwarded.

49. The system of Claim 36, wherein the message comprises an access restriction indicating a subset of points of access from among a set of points of access to access the message, and wherein, before allowing access to the message by the at least one recipient, the processor is operable to determine point of access of the at least one recipient and, when
5 the point of access of the at least one recipient is not within the subset of points of access, not allowing access to the message.